

# CONNECTING

2024

LIGHT OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



## LOOK BOOK



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Dear Friends/Members,

I am excited to share with you the contents of this “Look Book” Contained here are some of the ideas and input of so many of you over the past couple of years. When we began our visioning journey, we certainly didn’t know where things would end up. What we knew was that the Pandemic had affected most all of us. The fact that “Connecting” emerged as a central need and ministry priority was not a surprise. While we have been examining and deepening our ministries, we also determined to take a good look at our facilities to see what needs attention and where our spaces can help facilitate deeper connections. That’s what this publication is all about.

Please take time to read through this Look Book. There has been quite a bit of work done in honing into what most matters both by our Facilities Task Force and also our Church Council. We are excited for how these improvements will serve the ministry we all share. A Q & A addresses a good deal of what you might be wondering about.

Sunday Forums will be held after worship in the sanctuary on January 7, 14 and 21. Then, we’ll have a congregational vote on January 28 whether to proceed with a capital appeal.

Please reach out at any time. And most importantly, pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead and deepen our ministry here at Light of Christ as we seek to Build a House Where Love Can Dwell.

Blessings!

Pastor Bruce



## What is being proposed:

- Expand and enlarge the narthex
- Improve circulation to the fellowship hall
- Reallocation of space to enlarge the fellowship hall
- Create a secure entrance to the building adjacent to the office
- Encourage fellowship by centralizing the front entry
- Update kitchen finishes and appliances.
- New fixtures and finishes in existing bathrooms
- New bathroom groups
- Updated conference room with better digital capabilities
- Fixing the steeple
- New parking lot

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View from the sanctuary.



From this vantage point you can see right on into the Fellowship Hall. The hallway has now doubled in width. In fact, it's a much more open connection from the Fellowship Hall on toward the Sanctuary. New windows looking out toward the front parking lot are an option. (And opposite of that, on the north side of the FH, new windows would open up toward the street side.

Just to the left of the wall, as you'd make your way around, would be the new relocated bathrooms.

Straight ahead into the hall, just to the RHS, would be a new secure entrance.

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## **What is behind this Let Us Build a House initiative?**

- As we are imagining how to best deepen our connections here at LOC, one of the things we wanted to look at was our facilities. A congregational survey in fall 2022 resulted in quite a bit of input, the majority of which is contained here.
- The idea is to have our facilities serve our mission of connecting more deeply as members and also be sure that our ministry priorities are served effectively by our building and property. As we build a spiritual house, we are also paying attention to the Lord's House as a building.

## **In a nutshell, what are the details of the proposed project?**

- Top of the list a year ago was to expand and enlarge the gathering area outside of the sanctuary, the narthex. As well, we wanted to open up the flow of traffic on down into the Fellowship Hall. So, the largest changes help to do just that:
- Relocate the nursery and main bathrooms, angle the east sanctuary entrance, and widen that whole hallway opening up to the Fellowship Hall.
- Moving the current Headstart rooms down toward the north-east portion of our building, thus opening up a lot of space. New bathrooms will go there. Nursery moves toward where the coat rack currently is.
- Creating a new, secure entrance to the building. Where everyone comes into the building will be a redesigned area at the current central entrance to the building, down toward the offices, near the kitchen.
- A refresh of the kitchen, including a new commercial dishwasher and a wonderful space for serving coffee and refreshments on Sundays and other times.
- Redesign/upgrade of the bathrooms near the kitchen. All gender, larger, even an adult changing room.
- Some refresh/redesign in the office spaces to include an updated conference room with digital capabilities.
- Fixing the steeple, which has been leaking off and on for a good while.
- And finally, putting in a new parking lot, as we have struggled with patch repairs for well over a decade.

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**What about the cost? What will that be? Is now a good time to do this?  
Aren't we behind in our regular giving/budget?**

- The overall cost of everything contained here is \$1.8M. At the conclusion of the proposed 3-year appeal, we will assess exactly what we can accomplish.
- While details may change and options will be determined, one possibility would be to have Two Phases:

**Phase 1:**

New entry, new parking lot, reception remodel and a \$20,000 allowance for steeple repair.

***Total estimated cost for phase 1 = \$420,000***

**Phase 2:**

Remodel restrooms, light remodel of kitchen, remove column, new septic system, renovation and remodel of fellowship, nursery, and existing entry.

***Total Estimated cost for phase 2 = \$1,462,000***

**Cost saving ideas:**

- Cut new windows in fellowship area - deduct \$12,000
- Simplify the new entry roof deduct - \$75,000
- Leave column in place deduct - \$34,000

So, as you can see, there are some variables we can shape.

- As curious as it might be, it is a common occurrence for a church to take on a capital appeal even while being challenged to meet annual ministry goals. The appeal will request members for gifts/3-year pledges over and above regular giving, and we find very often that in fact folks will give to the appeal out of "other" funds. In fact, many have a special sense of calling/excitement when given the opportunity for a project such as this.
- Light of Christ is a generous congregation. And we feel convinced that these changes will help us move into this next chapter of our church's life and ministry. We're confident in the Lord's leading and inspiration as we move forward!



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## What's next?

- We will hold open congregational forums after worship on Jan. 7, 14 & 21.. We'll be eager to share a bit more and to answer your questions.
- A formal proposal to move forward with a capital appeal to raise funds will be presented at our Jan. 28th Annual Meeting. This is a decision of our Light of Christ church family. We will raise as much as we can and then determine next steps as a congregation.
- Share any thoughts or input with our Church Council members.
- Consider serving on one of our Appeal Support Teams.
- Pray. We have sensed the Holy Spirit leading us all through this visioning process over the past couple of years, and we believe these improvements will position us for effective ministry in the years to come.
- Consider your gift. No, you're not being ask now. But obviously projects like this only come to fruition with the generous financial support of members. One-time gifts and a weekly or monthly pledge over 3-years are the most common ways people give. But we'll share some other ideas, too.



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